

OF THE JERUSALEM REFORMED CONGREGATION
IN THE STONE CREEK VALLEY
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO

1815-1915

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A Brief Historical Sketch of the
Jerusalem Reformed Congrega-
tion in the Stone Creek Valley,
Tuscarawas County, Ohio

1815-1915



Written for the Centennial Anniversary of the
Congregation by Rev. Ernest Fledderjohann



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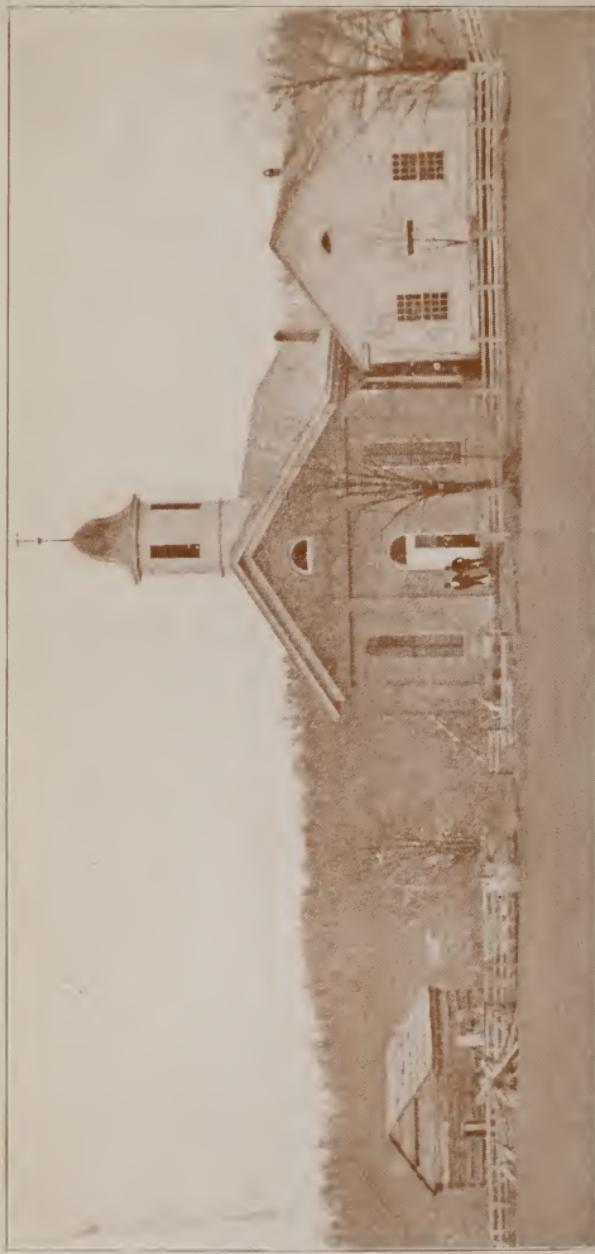
Canal Dover, O.



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Brick Church, Built in 1877



Jerusalem Reformed Church, Stone Creek Valley

The Church was organized in March, 1815. The log building was put up in 1815. The brick church was erected in 1877. The frame house was built in 1842.

Preface



HE One Hundredth Anniversary of the Jerusalem Reformed church gives us occasion to review the history of this congregation. We make no claim for originality in this book. The facts given, the anecdotes related, are brought together from various sources. The last two volumes of "The Fathers of the Reformed Church" by Rev. H. Harbaugh, Minutes of synod and classis, church calendars, and above all the church records have contributed the greater portion of the data. Certain members and friends have also assisted. We are grateful for all help received.

May this brief sketch help us appreciate the self-denying labors of our fore-fathers and fill us with Reformed consciousness, but above all a desire to lead better Christian lives. Are we worthy of so great an inheritance? The only way we can be, is by continued faithfulness to the faith of our ancestors based on the teachings of the Word of God.

*“Our Fathers, where are they,
With all they call their own,
Their joys and griefs and hopes and cares
And wealth and honor gave.*

*Of all the pious dead
May we the footsteps trace,
Till with them in the land of light
We dwell before thy face.*

CHAPTER I

Jerusalem Reformed Church was Organized In 1815.



ERUSALEM Reformed church was organized in 1815. This organization dates back before the time in which York Township was organized which occurred in 1828.

The first settlers of this township resided in Stone Creek Valley. Francis Garnet, Philip Kuhn, John Shull, George Gimlitz and Samuel Deardorff arrived here before 1808. Henry Ankney came in 1815 and bought land of Shull.

The earliest marriages occurred in 1810 between George Kulm and Margaret Gimlitz; Henry Fackler and Barbara Gimlitz and Frederick Shull and Catherine Fackler.

Jacob Shull died in 1813 and was buried in the graveyard of this church. This was the first funeral known.

The first time the stork made his appearance was in Decembr, 1809 when he brought a little girl into the home of Philip Kuhn. She was named Margaret. Joseph Shull was born in March, 1810. After this the stork knew the way and continued his visits to our beautiful valley. In the neighborhood of one thousand baptisms are recorded in the Jerusalem Reformed church records up to the present time. The first church was a log structure built by George Rommel in 1815. Prior to this time Shull's barn was used for religious assembly.

School was also taught in this building. Daniel Von Bramer was the first teacher. He taught German only. His salary was nine dollars a month and board. His successor George Bucher taught in both languages. The school was patronized by families residing on Crooked Run and Oldtown Valley.

"John Shull made York's first clearing and put up the first house. Plows were home-made. Flax-spinning was a ceaseless domestic labor. Jacob Welt was a notable tanner of buckskins, and made garments of them. He tanned during his continuance at the business over 2000 skins. Shull brought with him some apple-seeds, and these planted, grew to be an orchard of natural fruit—prized although inferior."

The pioneers of this section did not always have smooth sailing. It is related that Jacob Ankney saw 15 wolves in a drove. He took refuge in an old hut until the wolves were gone when he stayed at a near neighbor until the next day. Deardorff, Garnet and Kuhn built a pen to trap them and caught a panther. They prodded their formidable game to death with forks before opening the pen. The first settlers have passed down to us stories of many such adventures.

CHAPTER II

Erection of the First Church Building.

PHILIP L. KUHN, John F. Gernand, George Kuhn, John and Henry Benfer, George H. Put and Henry Shaffer, all of Prussian descent, and of the Reformed faith, and John Shull and Gimlins of the Lutheran belief built the church to be used for worship on Sunday and educational purposes during the week. This church was organized in 1815. The hewed-log structure was erected at a cost of \$311.81. \$24.75 were donated in the form of labor at .50c per day. The cost of the stove and stove pipe amounted to \$55.50. Nails were purchased at 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents a pound, and other necessary material cost proportionately. The money needed for this building was subscribed by 43 people. Considering the change of conditions and times we should have to build a church worth at least \$10,000, in order to compete with the Christian spirit of these pioneers.

The ground upon which this church was erected was donated by John F. Gernand and Philip L. Kuhn and John Schull. It consisted of one acre and forty rods for which the Jerusalem Reformed church holds a deed.

Because of the lack of Reformed pastors the services of student Abraham Schneider, as yet unordained, were secured. He instructed he the youth of the Reformed Church in the Heidelberg catechism. Our log church being small and since there was no other building large enough in New Philadelphia, the first class was

confirmed in the jail in New Philadelphia, O. The first Reformed minister serving this congregation was Rev. John Peter Mahnenschmidt, a member of the West Pennsylvania classis. He was born in 1783, most probably in one of the western counties of Pennsylvania. His parents were pioneer people. "His father was a school master in Pennsylvania. Until the eighteenth year of his age, John Peter lived and labored for his father." After this he fought the battle of life independently. He found employment as day-laborer and school-teacher in Somerset County, the county from which Jacob Ankney the father of Francis Ankney came to this valley. Later John Peter Manenschmit was teaching school in Washington Co., Pennsylvania. During this time the Reformed minister, there, died and he was prevailed upon to supply the pulpit. He conceded 1806. In 1811, May 12th he applied for regular licensure and ordination of Synod then in session in Philadelphia, Pa. His first congregations were in Washington County. Pa., which he served 6 years. In the meantime he was married and had to find part of support for himself and family by the labor of his own hands. In 1812 he visited Ohio and received an immediate call. Here he preached in houses, school houses, log cabins and sometimes under the open heavens, greatly to the joy of the people. His first home was near Springfield, O. where he purchased 110 acres at a very low cost. He served six congregations in Columbiana County and two in Trumbull County and Canton in Stark County and other places among which is Jerusalem Church. Thus one pastor served churches scattered over four counties. He could give only a few services a year. At such a

time he would perform marriages, baptize children and serve communion.

He died firm in faith and with an assurance of a glorious immortality. His labor was crowned with the success of winning souls for Christ. Up to the end of his ministry there are 38 baptisms recorded in church record volume one.

July 22, 1819 Rev. Henry Sonnendecker preached his first sermon at Jerusalem church under a large oak tree, since the church did not afford ample room.

He was born 1791 in Pennsylvania. His first religious impressions were received from John Peter Mahnenschmidt, whose noble life and evangelistic preaching greatly influenced him. In 1818 he was ordained to the work of the ministry and preached his first sermon in Buehler's School-house, Butler County Pa. He served three congregations in Washington Co., Pa., for a brief time. In 1819 he made a kind of Home missionary tour through Ohio. Among the churches he visited in July 1819 was Jerusalem Church on the 22nd of that month.

He repeated his visits in November of the same year and finally accepted the urgent call of the people in January 1820. During his pastorate nine baptisms are recorded. He continued here until 1831 when he accepted a call from a number of congregations in Columbiana Co., O. Here he labored until the end of his life. After 33 years of faithful ministerial labor he died Oct. 16th 1851:

"His death was calm and peaceful, he fell asleep softly in the arms of Jesus, like the gently falling leaf. Thus ended the earthly career of a much esteemed and useful brother in the ministry." His pastor and

spiritual leader John Peter Mahnenschmidt took part in the funeral service.

People continued to settle in the valley and neighboring community. Many of them were of the Reformed faith. In 1822 they felt competent to call their own pastor. They secured the service of Rev. William Reiter.

Rev. William Reiter was born in Lancaster Co., Pa. on the 30th of September 1799. His parents, descendants of the Palatinate were Reformed people. He received his primary education at home in Westmoreland Co., Pa. In 1814 his parents moved with him to Stark Co., O. where as a dutiful son he received a real taste of backwoods life. He was a very sensitive child given to various moods. Under the careful instructions of Rev. J. P. Mahnenschmidt he became assured of his salvation through Christ Jesus. He obtained a theological work from Rev. B. Faust to which he devoted his leisure time. When he was 21 years old he was instructed by Rev. J. Stough at Lisbon, O. He made commendable progress. In 1821 he received an urgent call from members of the Reformed church in Tuscarawas County, O. He preached in the Seltenrich's church. Here a nucleus was formed, out of which grew the congregations of Shanesville, Ragersville and Bedford. In 1821 he also preached at Jerusalem church, Stone Creek and New Philadelphia.

April 15, 1823 he was examined and ordained at New Philadelphia, O., by a Committee appointed by the Synod of North America. The committee consisted of Rev. J. P. Mahnenschmidt, Rev. Henry Sonendecher and Rev. D. Rahauer. His charge including Jerusalem church consisted of eight churches. Nine baptisms are recorded during his time. After a very



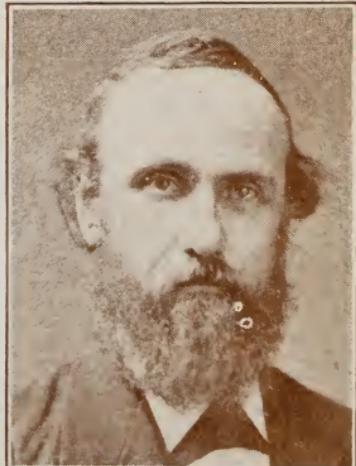
Rev. David Shearer
1826-1840



Rev. Robert F. Kabus
1846-1848



Rev. Christian Wisner
1880-1886



Rev. O. J. Accola
1886-1889



Rev. P. Greding
1872-1880



Rev. J. G. Zahner
1853-1872

brief period of labor he died May 9th 1826 at the age of 26 years 7 months and 9 days. He was interred at Shanesville, O. where his tomb stone may now be seen.

During his brief ministry he preached 424 sermons. His sermons and services were greatly appreciated. He left wife and one child. Rev. H. Sonnendecher preached the funeral service.

The congregation of Tuscarawas county sought another pastor. The Lord heard them and sent them a new pastor in the person of Rev. David Shearer.

He was born in Guilford Co., N. C. Oct. 30, 1782. His parents gave him a Christian education. While under parental roof he also pursued his theological studies for one year, when moderate circumstances interrupted. 1803 he married Mary Le Rose, whose father was a prominent Reformed minister. He supported his family by day labor until 1818 when he recommenced his theological studies under the direction of his father in law. After two years he matriculated at Lancaster, when he completed his course.

1823-1826 he served several congregations in Highland County, O. Thence he followed a call to the Shanesville charge including the Jerusalem church. He served under many hardships connected with pioneer work. During his pastorate this congregation was incorporated Feb. 24th 1843 as the First Society of the German Reformed Church in the Township York, Tuscarawas Co., O. During his service here forty baptisms were entered upon the records of the church. He served the church until 1840 when he moved with his family to Huntington Co., Ind. He spent his last years in the town of Huntington where

he took great interest in the development of the church. His last years were spent in confinement. He suffered with white swelling. He succumbed Sept. 10th, 1857. One son and three daughters survived him.

CHAPTER III

Erection of the Second Church Building, a Frame Structure

REV. JACOB BAER became the next pastor. His early history is unknown. He was born March 4, 1810 probably in eastern or central Pennsylvania. He was licensed in 1835 or 1836 either by the Synod or the Susquehanna Classis. "He was at first settled at Spring Mills, Centre Co., Pa. 1837 he was stationed at Oxford, Adams County. He remained here, probably 3 or 4 years, serving four congregations and having his residence at New Chester."

In 1840 he took charge of twelve congregations in the vicinity of Shanesville, O. Among them was the Jerusalem congregation.

This "Bear" came along and ate up all the stingy people and the rest built a fine new frame church. Because of continued immigration from Prussia and Switzerland larger quarters became necessary. This frame building 30 by 46 feet was erected at the cost of \$694.80. A list of subscribers to this new church may be found in Church record Volume 1, pages 9 to 11.

The cornerstone was laid March 31st, 1841, and dedicated the same year. Rev. Jacob Baer and Rev. Henry Coleredo performed the cornerstone laying and dedication of the new church. Five baptisms are recorded during his time of service.

The pastorate of Jacob Baer was brief. At the close of 1842 he left for West Point, Lee County, Iowa Ter-

ritory. In this place he remained until his death, February 1, 1855. He reached the age of 44 years, 11 months and 17 days.

Rev. Baer was succeeded by Rev. Campman a Moravian minister. He served from 1842-1843. One baptism has been entered in the church record during his very brief pastorate.

1843 Rev. David Martz became pastor in and around Shanesville, O., including Jerusalem church. This was his first pastorate, consisting of ten congregations. In 1847 the number of congregations was reduced to six. In this charge he labored faithfully and with success to the end of his life. He was taken with inflammation of the lungs while at Farmersville and died there, February 19th, 1849 at the age of 36 years. He was a pious and earnest man, and with many, an acceptable preacher. In 1846 he was notified that his services were no longer desired at Jerusalem church since his methods varied from those established in the church. He belonged to the New Movement that was then sweeping the country.

He recorded seven baptisms.

He was buried in Shanesville, Ohio, his last place of residence.

In 1846 Rev. Robert F. Kabus took up the pastorate of the Jerusalem church. He served until 1848.

He was born at Maienburg, Prussia, Germany, December 2, 1868, where he also received his education. He was highly educated, speaking four languages.

July 15th, 1847 he married Leah Bugher, daughter of Geo. Bugher an old resident of the valley. He had nine children. Five are still living.

Miss Mary Kabus on the home place near St. Jacob's

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church, Jefferson Township, to which Rev. Kabus retired toward the close of his life. Her brother Benjamin is staying with her.

Mrs. Fred Groh, nee Johanna Elizabeth Kabus, and her brother, James F., are staying on a farm near Ringersville. Mrs. Arthur Rial, nee Amanda Kabus, residing in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

There are two grand-children: Reuben H. Groh (19 years) and Teressa E .Rial (8 years old.)

The charge including the Jerusalem congregation was the first one served by him.

He performed 17 baptisms in this congregation. From here he went to Beach City. From there he went to Fulton Co., Ind., and Palasla Co., as a missionary for ten years. After this time he served as chaplain in the Civil war for two years. He served in 107 O. V. I. After this he went to Washington, D. C., where he filled a government office. Here he remained about two years. Then he led a retired life. He spent most of his last days at his home near St. Jacob's church, Jefferson Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and the rest at the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, O. He reached the age of 76 years and 3 months. He was buried at Shanesville, Ohio.

1848 Rev. John Gottlieb Abele, an Evangelistic minister accepted a call to the Jerusalem church and served until 1853. He had eight baptisms in the Jerusalem congregation.

1853 the Reformed Jerusalem church extended a call to Rev. John G. Zahner, who had begun his pastorate at Shanesville, December 5, 1846, where he continued his pastorate for 40 years.

Rev. J. G. Zahner was born in Oberdigisheim, Wurt-

emberg, South Germany, December 21st, 1820. He studied at the Mission House, Basel, Germany. He came to America in 1845 and continued his studies under Schaff and Nevin. He was licensed in 1846 and ordained in 1847. Rev. Zahner was a most faithful pastor. The task in the Jerusalem church was unusually hard when he arrived here. The congregation had been torn to pieces under the influence of Rev. Martz and had never been fully healed until Dr. Zahner arrived in this field. During his pastorate the first pipe organ was purchased from John Weber, organ builder, Shanesville, Ohio. The cost was \$325. The organ committee consisted of J. Benfer, Jacob Ankeny, S. Rufer and Moses Bucher. He continued his excellent work in Stone Creek Valley until 1872 when he was compelled to lessen his field of labor because of increased infirmities. He performed 191 baptisms during his term of labor in this Valley. He continued his labors at Shanesville until 1889, when it became necessary to retire altogether. Rev. Zahner's influence may be traced throughout his charge. No doubt it is the seed sown by him that has grown to the strong congregation in Shanesville which under the faithful labors of their present pastor, Rev. Henry Clausing, resulted in a splendid new church property worth at least twenty five thousand dollars. May the Lord send another Clausing to Stone Creek Valley in the near future. Our present building is very similar to the old one at Shanesville, Ohio. Our Savior called him to a much greater and more pleasant field of labor when he closed his career on earth May 7th, 1890 at Bloomsburg, Ohio. He reached the age of 69 years, 4 months and 16 days. He was interred at Shanesville where a beautiful tomb-

stone marks the site on the old cemetery immediately in front of the old church. The wife, nee Wilhelmina Cappel and ten children survived him. The motto on his tomb-stone is in the German language, Philippians 1:21. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

August 1st,, 1872, Rev. P. Greding accepted a call to this charge consisting of Jerusalem church, New Philadelphia, and Trenton. He resigned his professorship at Tiffin, O., to take up his work here. He was born February 28, 1827 in the village of Thusis, Canton Grassbuenden, Switzerland. His father died in Switzerland and in the year 1858 the mother with her sons came to America and settled at Milwaukee, Wis. Dr. Greding took his high school course in Switzerland, graduating with high honors. In America he pursued his college and theological courses at Tiffin, O., and graduated in 1859. He was ordained the same year and called to Riley Creek, O., where he organized the Emanuels church. From thence he also served Lima and organized the German church there in 1860. "Dr. Greding was active along three particular lines. 1. As pastor, he served the following congregations: Riley Creek, 5 years; Magley, Ind., 1 year; Detroit, Mich., 6 years; New Philadelphia, O., including our Jerusalem congregation, 8 years; Riley Creek and Bluffton, O., (a second time) 12 years; Friedeus-kirche, Bothius, 10 years. It was at Friedeus-kirche where the present pastor of this church met him at a Harvest-home service. This little church is located within six miles of New Knoxville, O., where the present pastor was raised.

Besides these he served also though not as regular pastorates: Cario, Delphos, Spencerville and Hume and one year as field secretary of the Home Mission

Board.

As Professor.—He taught foreign languages for two years at Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio.

As Editor.—Here he was very active. For more than thirty years he edited the "Church Kalender." Several years he edited the "Evangelist" and Sunday School lesson leaves. Especially noteworthy are his "Principles of the Reformed Church," on the strength of which he received the doctor title in 1875 from Ursiuns College.

CHAPTER IV.

Erection of the Third Church Building, a Brick Structure.

 T was during the pastorate of Rev. Zahner that the present brick church was erected in 1877. The building committee consisted of Franz Kuhn, Geo. May, August Kuhn, Daniel Kuhn and John Wenger. Henry Stiffler was the contractor. The cost with furnishings amounted to \$2023.62. Francis Ankney acted as clerk.

When the walls had been built up a heavy storm blew them down. The workmanship in rebuilding was hastily carried on, and therefore it is impossible to remodel the present church. As this building becomes unsuitable for modern church work an entirely new structure will have to be built.

The old log church was used for religious worship for 26 years. The frame church served to that end for 36 years, and this brick church has done splendid service for 38 years.

During his service, Dr. Greding recorded 119 baptisms. After eight years of faithful service, he left in 1880.

He died April 28, 1910, at the age of 83 years. His wife, nee Anna Matter, to whom he had been married in 1860, and two sons, five daughters and eleven grandchildren survived him.

Rev. Christian Wisner began his work here October 1, 1880. At first he served Jerusalem church, New

Philadelphia and Trenton. After a while the Trenton congregation was dropped and dissolved. After this there were services in the Valley and New Philadelphia each Sunday.

Rev. Christian Wisner was born in Sultz, Wittenberg, Germany, on November 10, 1836. He was baptized, reared and confirmed in his native church, coming to America when but nineteen years of age. He received his theological education at the Union Theological seminary, New York City, and was graduated in June, 1864. He immediately assumed the pastorate of the Bloomfield, New Jersey, congregation, after his ordination as a minister of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior. He was later sent by the Board as a missionary to Minnesota, where he labored for several years. Later he accepted a call to the New Philadelphia and Stone Creek charge and for seven years acted as their pastor. Thus he served the Lord, preaching the old but ever new Gospel of Jesus Christ, visiting the sick, baptizing the children and burying their dead. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced and sorrowed with the sorrowful, never once forgetting that he was the ambassador to the greatest of all Kings.

After an active ministry of forty-five years, he retired and is now living quietly in Indianapolis, Indiana.

During his pastorate 104 baptisms, 67 confirmations and three renewals of profession were recorded in the church record of the Jerusalem church.

October 24, 1886 Rev. O. J. Accola began his labors here. Rev. Oswold J. Accola was born November 26, 1835 in Sebanico Dalmatia, on the beautiful Adriatic sea. When but eight months old both parents succumbed to the raging cholera. An uncle took him back

to Switzerland (Canton Graubunden) whence his parents had come, and there raised and educated him. At the age of seventeen he came to America, following an older brother, who had come earlier. Here he settled at Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he was active as teacher, while pursuing a course of study. Later he entered Tiffin college where he completed his theological studies. He entered the ministry of the Reformed church in 1860. In the year 1862 he was married to Johanna Elizabeth Scheurmann in Town Lebanon, Dodge Co., Wis.

The following charges were served by him:

Defiance, O., 1860-1862; Elmore, Wis., 1862-1864; traveling missionary in western and northern Wisconsin in the time intervening between charges of Elmore, Wis., and Freeport, Ill.; Freeport, Ill., 1865-May, 1867; Dayton, O., May, 1867 to July 1876; Cleveland, O., July, 1876 to July, 1878—Dean and Professor in Calvin College; Dayton, Ohio, July, 1878 to October, 1886; New Philadelphia, including Jerusalem church, October, 1886-1890; Chicago, Ill., Friedens Gemeinde, October, 1890 to July, 1894. He then retired from the active ministry of the church.

He served the Jerusalem congregation as regular pastor until January 1, 1889 when the New Philadelphia congregation declared itself independent. Rev. Accola, however, consented to supply the pulpit of the Jerusalem church. The Jerusalem congregation together with the Phillipsburg congregation (Stone Creek) and St. Jacob's congregation formed a separate charge. Thus they were able to maintain their own pastor. During his pastorate here Dr. Professor Accola performed 24 baptisms and 39 confirmations.

During his time the new cemetery was bought and the road changed. On November 17, 1896 he died in Chicago, Ill., after an illness of over four months, at the age of 60 years, 11 months and 22 days. He was buried in Mount Olive Cemetery, Chicago.

February 9, 1890, Rev. Frederick Kalbfleisch preached his trial sermon in the Stone Creek charge and was unanimously elected. He was born December 17, 1866 in Baltimore, Md. He graduated from the primary and grammar schools of that city and in the fall of 1881 he entered Calvin college in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1881 he went to the Mission House College and graduated from the seminary of that institution in June, 1889, having taken one year's post graduate work after graduation from college. He then taught school in St. Louis, beginning in July, 1884 up to January, 1890, when he accepted a call to Stone Creek charge. He was ordained here in Jerusalem church just 25 years ago, March 4, 1890.

He was married July 30, 1890. Up to his marriage he boarded with Mr. Daniel Kuhn after which he lived in the village of Stone Creek. During his labors here he confirmed 33. His services were greatly appreciated. To the regret of all the people of this charge he resigned March, 1893 to continue his good work at Indianapolis, Ind. Here he labored for eight and one-half years when he followed a call to Chicago, Ill., in November, 1902. Since that time he has been grappling with city problems.



Rev. F. Kalbfleisch
1890-1893



Rev. J. S. Kosower
1893-1897



Rev. William Grether
1897-1902



Rev. Benj. Lienkaemper
1903-1905



Rev. Wm. Lienkaemper
1905-1909

CHAPTER V

Purchase of Pipe Organ and Erection of Parsonage.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1893, Rev. J. S. Kosower became pastor of this charge. He was born January 2, 1870 in Austria. He received his rearing and early impressions in Germany. In 1887 he came to America and continued his studies at Calvin College, Cleveland, Ohio.

He studied theology at Union Seminary in New York city and graduated from the Ursinus school of Theology in May, 1893. In August he began his pastorate in Stone Creek Valley. This was his first charge. Sept. 15, 1893, he was ordained by Central Synod in Akron, O. He served the Stone Creek charge until January 1, 1897. During his pastorate here he did many good things. Among other things a new pipe organ was purchased. This was dedicated March 31, 1895. Rev. Friebolin of Cleveland and Rev. J. P. Rust assisted in the dedication service. The last named also played the organ. It was also during Rev. Kosower's pastorate that the parsonage was built. Mr. Daniel Kuhn was the builder.

From January 1, 1897 until January, 1903, he served as missionary in Glenville, O., now a part of Cleveland. January 1, 1903 he began his pastorate of the Reformed Immanuel congregation. January 1, 1908 he began his work in the German hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Under his management this hospital grew to be one

of the best hospitals in Cleveland. His faithful and self denying labors in the German hospital in Cleveland will always be remembered in the Reformed church. January 31, 1915 he again heeded the call of the Immanuel's church, Baltimore, Md., where he is now active. During the year 1895 the Joint Consistory of Stone Creek charge granted Rev. Kosower a vacation to go to Germany. While he was absent Dr. Theodore F. Herman supplied the pulpit.

He was born in the city of Goettingen, founded many centuries ago, and famous in modern times as the seat of a celebrated university and as the alma mater of many prominent Americans. He was educated in the higher schools of his native city and after the death of his parents, he came to America to continue and complete his course of study. He entered Calvin College in Cleveland, Ohio, in the fall of 1887, and graduated in June, 1892 as the valedictorian of his class. He then matriculated in the theological seminary of the Reformed church, at Lancaster, Pa., and studied theology until the year 1895. "During his middle year in the Seminary he supplied the pulpit of the Stone Creek charge from April to September, during the absence of the pastor in Europe. It was his first taste of the pastorate, and a fore-taste of his life work. Here in the midst of beautiful scenery, in the home of loyal and intelligent Reformed people, in the general fellowship of goodly and gifted young folk, in the presence of large and eager congregations, the inexperienced novice in the ministry laid the firm foundation of a love for his vocation which has continued to the present time with undiminished strength and with unabated zeal. His parishioners graciously overlooked his

numerous short-comings and generously acclaimed his meager merits. The months sped away—crowded with labors, ministerial and musical. The fruit may have been sparse, but the joy of sowing and reaping was abundant. And when the time came for parting the young student returned to his books with happy memories and with enduring friendship." This is the way Dr. Herman expressed himself about his sojourn in Stone Creek Valley. From the expression of the people here especially those who were the young and active life at the time, the works of Dr. Herman were greatly appreciated. We are proud to claim some part in him.

After his graduation from the Seminary in 1895, he went to Germany to pursue a post-graduate course. After three semesters spent at the universities of Berlin and Goettingen, he returned to America and took charge of the Hough Ave. Reformed church in Cleveland, Ohio, temporarily vacated by its pastor for the purpose of travel. In January, 1898 he entered upon his first regular pastorate in La Fayette, Indiana, during which he was married to Miss Emma Lane Garrigan, of Philadelphia, Pa. In January, 1903 he assumed charge of the Salem Reformed church in Allentown, Pa., where he continued a happy ministry until his brethren unanimously elected him to the chair of Systematic Theology in the Theological Seminary at Lancaster. He was reluctant to leave the active ministry, which had brought him naught but joy and inspiration; but he felt constrained to interpret the mandate of the church, twice repeated, as being the will of God.

Since 1910 he has been engaged in the manifold

labors of his official position, conscious of his personal insufficiency for his task of preparing young men for the Christian ministry. His prayer is that out of Jerusalem church in the Stone Creek Valley young and vigorous in the strength of her first hundred years, there may go forth some of her goodly sons into the Christian ministry to promote the growth of Zion and consummate the Kingdom."

In February, 1897 Rev. William Grether began his pastorate in Stone Creek Valley. He was born in New Philadelphia where his father was a German doctor at the time, on October 25, 1862. When he was a year old, his father was ordained to the ministry. He had been doing some preaching prior to this time. William was one of six sons all of whom entered the ministry. After finishing the public schools of Stark county, O., he taught school until 18 years of age, when he matriculated at the Mission House preparatory for the ministry. In the fall of 1884 he was providentially led to continue his studies at Tiffin, Ohio. A brother two years younger desired to study for the ministry. The Wisconsin climate being too severe, both went to Tiffin. After three years in the Mission House College and one in the seminary, he spent another year at Tiffin. During this last year he supplied the Auburn, Ind. charge.

June 7, 1885 he was ordained to the Gospel ministry at West Bay City, Mich., by Zion's Classis. He became the regular pastor of the Auburn charge, being installed 10 days after his ordination. After this he served the following charges:

Jan. 23, 1887, Rhine Wis.; Nov. 4, 1888, Poland, Ind.; Nov. 18, 1894, Millersburg charge, Holmes Co., Ohio.



Rev. Theo. F. Herman

April-September, 1895

Supplied



Rev. O. G. Herbrecht
1909-1911

In the middle of February, 1897, he laid down his work and began in the Stone Creek charge. He served this charge until Dec. 1, 1902, when he began at Archbold, Ohio. June 1, 1907, Sandusky, Ohio. There he continued until the spring of 1909, when, on account of ill health he was compelled to quit the pulpit. For a while he represented the Central Publishing House in the field, but had to give this up also. Then he spent 10 months at Warrensville, Ohio, returning home to Sandusky, much improved in health. June 3, 1910 his health again declined. After 5 months at home, his health was nearly as bad as ever. Friends enabled him to go to Phoenix, Arizona, where he staid 19 months, seemingly quite well. In June, 1912 returned home and accepted a call to the Waldo, Ohio charge. One year and four months of preaching again put him almost where he had been before.

December 6, 1913 he and family started for Loveland, Colo., in the hope of regaining health and at the same time with the intention of taking care of our Mission among the German Russians at that place. After 9 months of effort to do this work with the aid of an assistant, he was compelled to resign Oct. 1, 1914. Since that time he has done what other little work he could find. He seems to be improving somewhat. He has committed his ways unto the Lord and wishes to return to the pulpit if it is the good pleasure of the Almighty One.

The life of this brother is somewhat sad. So anxious to serve his Master, yet greatly hindered because of ill health. The Lord, however, has used him to His own purpose, and by example of unwavering faith through all his trials as well as his active service as pastor he

has been and still is doing a most noble work.

As pastor of the Stone Creek Charge he performed 75 baptisms, 56 Confirmations, 15 marriages and 18 funerals. He occupies a very warm place in the hearts of all those in the Valley who know him.

One of the most popular pastors that ever struck the Valley is Rev. Benjamin E. Linekaemper. When we asked him to send a brief sketch of his life's career he sent a little slip of paper 6 inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In this Valley he is most generally spoken of as "Benny" He has a smile and kind word for every body. He was born June 7, 1873 at Waukon, Iowa, where his father, Rev. Carl Linekaemper, served the Reformed Church 3 miles out in the country. In 1879 he lost his father and the following year his mother and children moved back to the neighborhood of her old home and settled at Franklin, Sheboygan Co., Wis. Here he pursued his College and Seminary studies, graduating in the year 1897. The following year he took up some post graduate work at the McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill. June 5, 1898 he was ordained in the First Reformed Church of Toledo, O. He began his work in the ministry at the Emanuel Reformed Church of Haskins, Ohio. After a five years service at this place he followed a call to the Stone Creek charge, at New Philadelphia, O. He served this charge from June 1903 to 1905. Since that time he has served the First Reformed Church at Bellaire, O., and the St. Lucas Reformed Church at Jeffersonville, Ind., and since Sept., 1911 he is serving Trinity Reformed Church at Upper Sandusky, O.

It was during his pastorate at Jeffersonville, Ind., that he and the present pastor of Stone Creek Charge

became very close friends. The latter was at Louisville, Ky. at the time. They used to share the burdens of bachelor life until "Benny" left for Upper Sandusky when "Amor" kindly led his friend to his better half.

While pastor of this charge Rev. Benjamin Lienkaemper won the love of all his people and it was with greatest regret they were compelled to see him go March 31, 1905. During his pastorate he baptized 43 ,confirmed 36, married 21 and had 18 funerals in this congregation.

CHAPTER VI

Period of Increased Church Interest and Rearrangement of Charge.

MAY 15, 1905, Rev. Wm. G. Lienkaemper began his work in the Stone Creek Charge. He is a son of Rev. Carl Lienkaemper. He was born at Lowell, Wis., Oct. 15, 1871. One year later the family moved to Waukon, Ia., where the father was called to serve the Reformed church. Here he spent eight years of his childhood. At this age, the father died leaving the mother with a family of eight children. One year later they moved to Franklin, Wis., near the Mission House, thus giving her sons an opportunity for a higher education. After finishing the district school he entered the preparatory school at the Mission House. After graduating from both College and Seminary, he was sent to Thorpe, Wis., to take charge of a mission during the summer. In the fall he entered Union Theological Seminary at New York City for a two years' post graduate course. In July 1895 he was elected pastor of St. John's Ebener Church at Timothy, Wis., which he served five years. In November of same year he was married to Miss Adele Schwerger of La Fayette, Ind. To this union were born two daughters and one son.

In January 1890 he was called by the Board of Home Missions to take up a new field in So. Buffalo. In March of the same year St. Johns Church was organized and building operations began. Before the

building could be completed, however, he was compelled to resign on account of ill health. After a period of fifteen months ,a part of which was spent in Colorado, he was again able to take up the active work, responding to a call from Jeffersonville, Ind.

His next pastorate was the Stone Creek Charge near New Philadelphia, O., which he served with much pleasure for four years.

In April 1909 he took charge of the Second Reformed Church at Dayton, O. Four years ago he with his family made a trip to Washington and Oregon to visit brothers and sisters. While there he received an urgent call from the Board of Home Missions to take up work at Salem Oregon, and also one equally urgent from the people at Salem. After investigating and seeing the great need he decided that the Lord needed him in Salem. Here he has labored over four years with much devotion and self-sacrifice under the most trying circumstances.

For three years he also served as President of Portland Oregon Classis.

As pastor of this congregation he baptized 58, confirmed 39, had 40 marriages and 27 funerals. It was also during his pastorate that St. John's congregation became a part of Stone Creek Charge and St. Jacobs of Ragersville.

It would be impossible to enumerate all of the good work accomplished during his pastorate here. Rev. Linekaemper never will be able to realize how grateful the people of this charge feel toward him for the service he rendered here. God alone can fully reward such work.

May 9, 1909 Rev. O. G. Herbrecht began his pas-

torate in the Stone Creek Charge.

He was born in Chicago, Ill., May 19, 1885 of German parentage. At the age of nine removed to New York and entered public schools there. After several years the family located in the hard coal regions of Pennsylvania where he learned to love the hill-country and to feel the delights of tramping through the woods and gathering the wild berries that grew on the mountain side. In the spring of 1803 he tucked his diploma under his arm and proudly marched forth from the portals of the High School at Shamokin, Pa., a full fledged graduate. The future looked somewhat hazy because the family treasure held out no possibilities of a college course. But kind Providence placed into his hands a scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and there he matriculated in the fall of the same year. His ambition was to become a teacher of classic languages and with that purpose he dug away at the Greek and Latin roots which sprouted so promisingly at that venerable institution. When in spring of 1906 he had finished his course, providence smiled again and from the Germanic Dep't came a traveling scholarship that took him to the Old World for the summer. He made this journey across the ocean in company with his pastor at Philadelphia, now one of the professors at our Central Seminary in Dayton, Dr. Philip Vollmer, and before the Manitou docked at her port at Antwerp his whole life plans had been rearranged and he was scheduled to enter Ursinus Theological Seminary in the fall, as a student for the ministry and their class had the distinction of taking their three year course in three different cities, Philadelphia, Pa. Tiffin, O. and Dayton, O.



The Fledderjohann Family
1911 to present time



Parsonage of Jerusalem Reformed Church

In Dayton, Providence had another gift in store for him, the girl who is now his wife. When on the second of May 1909 they had plighted their troth, they turned their faces toward the rising sun and began life and their life's work among the people of Stone Creek Valley, serving them almost two years. Then he served the first church at Bellaire, Ohio, for three and one-half years.

Now he is serving the Hough Avenue church in Cleveland.

Rev. Herbrecht is very energetic in his work and does not feel satisfied unless he can see constant progress. He has also rendered a splendid service in the Stone Creek charge. During his service here he baptized 22, confirmed eight, married eight and had seven funerals in his congregation.

Sept. 3, 1911, Rev. Ernest Fledderjohann began his work in the Stone Creek charge.

He was born at New Knoxville, Ohio, July 7, 1882. It was his privilege to grow up in a small town where one of the largest Reformed churches of the Middle West is located. His early life was greatly influenced by the religious life in the home where the family altar is always observed. Rev. Moritz Noll made very definite impressions on the heart of the youth and also confirmed him. His influence helped to awake a desire to study for the ministry while still very young.

After finishing the school at his home town he entered the Mission House at Plymouth, Wis. He finished his college course at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, then took his first year Seminary at the Mission House. He took the last two years at McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill., where he gradu-

ated in 1908.

It was his good fortune to have the privilege to travel quite extensively abroad. The countries touched were England, France, Italy, Egypt, Arabia, Holy-land, Turkey, Greece, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Scotland and Ireland.

Upon his return he served the South Louisville Reformed Mission at Louisville, Kentucky. While at Louisville he met Miss Katie Strickler who was kind enough to consent to share with him life's joys and cares. They were married June 21, 1911.

In the fall of the same year he was attending General Synod at Canton, Ohio. The Stone Creek church was vacant at the time and so Rev. Benj. Lienkaemper influenced the present pastor to supply the pulpit. It was love at sight which resulted in the acceptance of a call coming from this charge. Since the South Louisville church desired him to serve long enough to give them an opportunity to secure another pastor, Rev. Benj. Lienkaemper supplied the charge, in the meantime doing all he could to prepare a very pleasant reception for the new pastor.

Up to the present time the people of Stone Creek have been putting up with him the best way possible.

As we retrospect the lives and services of these twenty-two pastors, the faithful pioneers of this church; and all of the great mercies shown the charge, have we not reasons to be grateful to God for His blessings? May the Lord help us to so live that some day we may all have part in that much happier reunion when all can be present.

The Official Program

Of the Services During Centennial Week.

(All time Central Standard.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 13.

8:30 a. m.—Sunday School.

9:30 a. m.—Opening Sermon, Rev. William Lienkaemper.

7:00 p. m.—Children's Day Service. Address by Rev. O. G. Herbrecht.

MONDAY, JUNE 14.

2:00 p. m.—Missionary Service, Rev. F. Kalbfleisch.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15.

7:00 p. m.—Historical Service, Rev. Benj. Lienkaemper.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16.

9:30 p. m.—German Service, Rev. J. S. Kosower.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17.

7:00 p. m.—Social Meeting, Rev. O. G. Herbrecht.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18.

7:00 p. m.—Good Fellowship Meeting, Rev. J. H. Rettig.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20.

8:30 a. m.—Sunday School.

9:30 a. m.—Centennial Sermon, Dr. Theodore Herman.

7:00 p. m.—Young People's Service, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society. Address Rev. William Linekaemper.

4117

